

WEEKLY BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ESTABLISHED APRIL 15, 1870
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APRIL 17, 1943

GUY P. JONES
Editor

INSANITATION AND SABOTAGE

The Chief of the Division of Food Sanitation of the San Diego City Health Department has contributed an article to the monthly bulletin of that department entitled, "Waiting on Table Can Be Sabotage."

He states that in the congested defense areas, eating out is not a luxury, but a necessity. "Many workers are living in small rooms or dormitories, and home meals are an impossibility. This puts the public at the 'mercy' of the waitress, for in home food preparation there is a chance of securing some protection by proper washing and thorough cooking. As an important link in preventing the transmission of disease, the waitress is a potentially sinister saboteur. If only one worker is made to feel under par, or an epidemic rages in a factory, in either case production is retarded, thereby aiding the enemy.

Anyone in good health, who maintains a proper personal hygiene and has cleanly habits, is not going to stray far from the technique or laws required to safeguard people from being sick. One serving meals must not only follow the rules of etiquette, but also obey sanitary requirements which may be highlighted as follows:

1. Report to employer and consult a doctor when having a cold, sore throat, running sores or skin eruptions.

2. Keep the body, especially the hands and fingernails, scrupulously clean. Unwashed hands spread disease.

3. For personal and customer's protection, spreading infection by saliva is avoided by keeping the hands out of the face. This includes not using tobacco while serving food.

4. Wear clean, washable outer garments, and do not use jackets or aprons as towels; or cloths for eating or drinking utensils as handkerchiefs.

5. The hair is arranged in a neat coiffure, using bands or a net if necessary to control loose, flying hair, and the need for constant rearranging.

6. Silverware is taken by the handle, and fingers are kept out of glasses, dishes and food.

7. Avoid using cracked or chipped dishes and glassware. They cannot be properly sanitized.

8. Cooperate in excluding and eliminating flies.

The diner-outer should appreciate the well-trained waiter or waitress; and the food handler should so orient his viewpoint that he has a positive attitude towards his job. Then he will realize that he, too, is part of the battle line. By preventing the transmission of disease, he is combating the enemy by protecting the Nation."

SANITATION OF DEHYDRATION PLANTS

Drainage disposal for vegetable dehydrator plants and alcohol distillation plants that use molasses is becoming a seriously acute problem in city sewer systems as well as in sewer systems in the rural districts. The average distillery is responsible for as much organic pollution as a city of 50,000 population. During March, six vegetable dehydrator waste problems were brought before the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering and 13 wineries have been converted to operating on molasses. The bureau is cooperating with the Department of Agriculture which is active in promoting dehydrators for a study of these wastes and their disposal.

WARS AND EPIDEMICS

Very few reports of epidemics of communicable diseases have come out of World War II, although some cases of an extremely virulent form of malaria have been contracted by members of our armed forces in the islands of the South Pacific. Various reports of outbreaks of typhus and other communicable diseases have been received from European countries.

In World War I, 58,119 of our men were victims of disease and 50,385 were killed or died of wounds. Most of those who died of disease perished in the influenza epidemic of 1918. Among more than 4,000,000 soldiers, there were but 2,200 cases of typhoid fever with 200 deaths. This is in direct contrast with typhoid in the Spanish-American War when there were 20,904 cases with 2,188 deaths. In that war 379 men died in battle and 4,795 died of disease. Most of these troops never reached Cuba.

Stories of epidemics have been handed down from previous wars. Typhus has been the great disease of war and Napoleon had to retreat from Moscow because of typhoid, typhus and pneumonia. Plague and dysentery prevented the invasion of Greece by the Persians under Xerxes.

In the United States war with Mexico in 1846-1847, out of 100,000 American soldiers only 1,549 were killed or died of wounds while 10,986 died of typhoid, dysentery, smallpox, malaria or tropical diseases. In the Civil War, 1861-1865, the Union Army lost approximately 200,000 men by disease and 112,000 from wounds.

None can state what the records will be in World War II, but apparently the deaths from epidemic diseases are being reduced to a minimum.

HEALTH STANDARDS FOR HARVEST CAMPS

At the request of the State Department of Education, an outline of uniform health standards for youths who may work in harvest camps during the present season was prepared and given wide circulation among health officers, school authorities and leaders in agriculture.

MATERNAL CARE FOR WIVES OF ENLISTED MEN

California will receive \$37,500 for the fourth quarter of 1943 from a congressional appropriation of \$1,200,000 to provide maternity and infant care for the families of enlisted men. Plans are being developed to expand the State's medical and hospitalization program to develop state-wide services for the dependents of men in the armed forces.

DANGER IN TRANSFER OF FOODS

The strict rationing of commercially canned foods led many housewives to purchase canned vegetables and animal food products in large quantities before rationing began, after which they transferred the commercially canned foods into glass jars. This is an exceedingly dangerous practice which may result in fatal food poisoning. Consumers who transferred products of this sort even though the material has been recanned may suffer severely from the consumption of such products.

The transfer to glass jars is done entirely to escape from the rationing requirements, as home-canned foods are not rationed. To open commercially canned products and put the contents into glass jars without cooking is particularly hazardous and any attempt to re-heat the commercially canned products in glass jars might result in spoilage and is a potential menace to the health of those who might consume the contents.

LEGISLATION FOR HARD OF HEARING

The hard of hearing organizations in California have sponsored two bills for the prevention of hearing impairments in children and for the education of the hard of hearing. They are A. B. 257, introduced by a group of assemblymen, and A. B. 1222, introduced by Mr. Gannon of Sacramento. Under the provisions of A. B. 257, the State Department of Public Health is given authority to seek out children with impaired sense of hearing and in its conferences and diagnostic clinics to employ trained otologists for diagnostic investigations. A. B. 1222 provides for the employment of consultant services in education for hard of hearing children in areas where such services are not available. These services shall be provided through an expert in the fields of organization and planning for the education of the hard of hearing.

At this writing both bills have been approved by Assembly committees on social welfare and education.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHEA OF THE NEWBORN

Epidemic diarrhea of the newborn in hospitals has provided a new and aggravating problem in epidemiology as well as in maternal and child health. During January, February and March of this year, 25 infant deaths due to diarrhea of the newborn occurred in a single city of California. The advisability of making all cases of infant diarrhea occurring in a nursery subject to drastic control measures is under consideration. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health is preparing material to assist hospitals in the maintenance of standards in the care of maternity patients and newly born infants.

LOS ANGELES BEACHES QUARANTINED

Following is the text of a quarantine order issued by the California State Board of Public Health, April 3, 1943:

"WHEREAS, Laboratory studies and sanitary inspections made by the California State Department of Public Health throughout 1942 have shown that the ocean beach and shore waters of Santa Monica Bay, extending from Fourteenth Street north of the Hermosa Beach Pier in Hermosa Beach, California, to Brooks Avenue north of the Venice Pier in Los Angeles, California, are contaminated and polluted with sewage to a dangerous degree, and

WHEREAS, This condition constitutes a menace to the health of persons using these beaches, be it

Resolved, That the California State Board of Public Health, meeting in San Francisco on Saturday, April 3, 1943, does hereby establish a quarantine of the stretch of beach extending from Fourteenth Street north of the Hermosa Beach Pier in Hermosa Beach, California, to Brooks Avenue north of the Venice Pier in Los Angeles, California. Quarantine under this order means the exclusion of the public from the shore waters and the beach in the area described above, extending on the beach to the point reached by high tide, and be it further

Resolved, That, pursuant to the above findings of the California State Board of Public Health, a copy of this resolution be sent to all city and county health officers within the area therein described, notifying and advising them of said quarantine and directing that they post signs warning the public that the area is under quarantine and that they enforce the provisions of this order."

Said action is taken for the preservation of the public health pursuant to the provisions of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

STANDARDIZATION OF SPUTUM TESTS

In order that the institutions in California that provide care for the tuberculous may maintain uniform methods in the study of sputum and other laboratory procedures, the Chief of the Division of Laboratories in company with the Chief of the Bureau of Tuberculosis visited a large number of institutions for the tuberculous scattered throughout the State. The importance of securing uniform methods and uniform results in laboratory diagnosis of tuberculosis is recognized.

I do not believe that peace can be the result of a document, but I think it can grow out of the attitudes of people toward each other and our mutual helpfulness today will be our best assurance of a more lasting peace.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

HOME FOOD DEHYDRATION

As a measure in food conservation, it is probable that many housewives may desire to dry small quantities of fruits or vegetables during the coming summer. Newly developed methods of home food-dehydration are outlined in a circular issued by the Home Demonstration Office of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of California at Berkeley. Instructions for building home dryers from simple materials are given in detail, together with suggestions for employing heating appliances already installed in the home. A dehydrator may be used over a floor furnace, a coal oil stove, a portable electric heater or the kitchen range. Directions for preparing fruits and vegetables for drying, estimating time required for dehydration and cooking the finished products are also presented.

The authors of the circular state that it is important that the methods used in home food preservation insure safe, palatable food in which all the nutrients have been retained as far as possible, that the methods can be followed easily and be safe for the operator, and that they can be carried out under the conditions of priorities and rationing.

HAZARDS IN OVEN CANNING

Dr. William V. Cruess, professor of fruit technology and chemist in the Experiment Station at the University of California, College of Agriculture, states that the use of the oven method for canning is one of the principal causes of spoiled home-canned foods. He stated that the hazards which may arise from heating jars of food in an oven, instead of the usually recommended pressure cooker, are very great.

He said, "First, as air is a very poor conductor of heat, the jars and contents heat extremely slowly and very unevenly. Fruits canned by this method may not be heated enough to prevent browning in the jars by enzyme action.

"Secondly, the contents do not rise above the boiling point, 212 degrees Fahrenheit, regardless of what the oven thermometer may say, because when the boiling point is reached the natural laws of physics prevent the temperature from rising. Nonacid foods should reach 239 degrees to 250 degrees Fahrenheit to remove the danger of botulism, fatal food poisoning."

MILITARY SANITATION PROJECTS

The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering during March was faced with many sanitation problems involving Army and Navy hospitals. This phase of military sanitation is probably the final problem of this sort that California shall have to consider.

MORBIDITY*

Complete Report for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week
Ending April 10, 1943

CIVILIAN CASES

Chickenpox

1631 cases from the following counties: Alameda 154, Butte 8, Contra Costa 57, Fresno 39, Glenn 14, Humboldt 14, Imperial 80, Inyo 3, Kern 12, Kings 1, Lassen 19, Los Angeles 465, Madera 3, Marin 40, Monterey 7, Orange 94, Riverside 16, Sacramento 25, San Bernardino 6, San Diego 169, San Francisco 220, San Joaquin 45, San Luis Obispo 6, San Mateo 18, Santa Barbara 10, Santa Clara 20, Santa Cruz 2, Siskiyou 5, Solano 4, Sonoma 56, Sutter 1, Tulare 5, Ventura 4, Yolo 2, Yuba 7.

German Measles

1737 cases from the following counties: Alameda 265, Butte 1, Contra Costa 38, Fresno 47, Humboldt 1, Kern 12, Lassen 3, Los Angeles 611, Madera 2, Marin 15, Monterey 4, Orange 93, Riverside 2, Sacramento 46, San Bernardino 22, San Diego 232, San Francisco 119, San Joaquin 35, San Luis Obispo 6, San Mateo 28, Santa Barbara 9, Santa Clara 55, Solano 1, Sonoma 39, Tehama 4, Tulare 1, Ventura 39, Yolo 6, Yuba 1.

Measles

914 cases from the following counties: Alameda 95, Butte 5, Colusa 1, Contra Costa 21, Fresno 3, Humboldt 29, Imperial 23, Inyo 1, Kern 14, Kings 1, Lassen 2, Los Angeles 316, Madera 4, Marin 2, Mendocino 14, Merced 6, Monterey 3, Orange 4, Riverside 29, Sacramento 38, San Bernardino 15, San Diego 80, San Francisco 91, San Joaquin 8, San Luis Obispo 6, San Mateo 13, Santa Clara 60, Shasta 2, Siskiyou 1, Sonoma 11, Tehama 2, Tulare 3, Ventura 6, Yolo 1, Yuba 4.

Mumps

683 cases from the following counties: Alameda 53, Butte 1, Contra Costa 30, Fresno 8, Humboldt 1, Imperial 10, Kern 12, Lassen 4, Los Angeles 146, Madera 1, Marin 3, Merced 4, Monterey 1, Orange 48, Sacramento 9, San Bernardino 9, San Diego 80, San Francisco 98, San Joaquin 104, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo 15, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara 19, Santa Cruz 1, Shasta 2, Solano 2, Sonoma 3, Tulare 1, Yolo 4, Yuba 7.

Scarlet Fever

147 cases from the following counties: Alameda 7, Butte 2, Contra Costa 2, Fresno 5, Inyo 2, Kern 1, Lassen 4, Los Angeles 58, Marin 4, Monterey 2, Orange 3, Riverside 3, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego 3, San Francisco 24, San Joaquin 3, San Mateo 5, Santa Clara 11, Sonoma 2, Tehama 1, Ventura 2.

Whooping Cough

471 cases from the following counties: Alameda 61, Contra Costa 24, Del Norte 1, El Dorado 5, Fresno 11, Glenn 6, Humboldt 1, Imperial 35, Kern 23, Los Angeles 130, Madera 8, Monterey 3, Orange 19, Sacramento 6, San Benito 2, San Diego 49, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin 8, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara 17, Santa Clara 15, Sonoma 8, Yolo 5, Yuba 1.

Diphtheria

18 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Imperial 1, Kern 1, Los Angeles 4, Riverside 2, San Joaquin 1, San Mateo 2, Tulare 4, Yuba 2.

Epilepsy

48 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 33, Monterey 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 9, San Mateo 1, Sonoma 2.

Diarrhea of Newborn (Epidemic)

One case from San Francisco.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

6 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 5, Sonoma 1.

Encephalitis (Infectious)

One case from Fresno County.

Influenza (Epidemic)

37 cases reported in the State.

Jaundice (Infectious)

3 cases from the following counties: Butte 1, Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino 1.

Leprosy

2 cases from San Bernardino County.

Meningitis (Meningococcic)

22 cases from the following counties: Alameda 2, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 2, Los Angeles 7, Orange 2, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin 1, Tuolumne 1, Ventura 1.

* Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

Paratyphoid Fever

2 cases from Los Angeles County.

Pneumonia (Infectious)

134 cases reported in the State.

Poliomyelitis (Acute Anterior)

5 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 3, San Diego 1, San Luis Obispo 1.

Rabies (Animal)

28 cases from the following counties: Fresno 3, Kern 2, Los Angeles 19, Madera 1, Orange 1, Riverside 2.

Rheumatic Fever (Acute)

10 cases from the following counties: Contra Costa 1, Los Angeles 5, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara 1.

Smallpox

One case from Tulare County.

Tetanus

One case from Los Angeles County.

Typhoid Fever

One case from Imperial County.

Typhus Fever

One case from San Diego County.

Undulant Fever

5 cases from the following counties: Kern 1, Los Angeles 2, Monterey 1, Orange 1.

Gonorrhea

380 cases reported in the State.

Syphilis

908 cases reported in the State.

STAFF MEMBERS AT WAR

The following members of the staff of the California State Department of Public Health are engaged in war services:

Helen Ackley, P.H.N.
Ray Atkinson, M.D.
Lloyd Bascom
Paul Billings
Alcor Browne
Donald Budie
O. L. Butterfield
Ida May Carlston, P.H.N.
Beckwith Clark
Jules Comroe, M.D.
Leon Comroe, M. D.
Joseph Copeland, M.D.
John Cruzan
Sidney F. Dommes, Jr.
Robert Dyar, M.D.
Tom Enright
Morris Farell
J. J. Fitzgerald, M.D.
Lowell D. Ford, M.D.
Herbert Foster, Jr.
Lyman D. Heacock, D.D.S.
Horace Hancock
R. W. Haymond
Donald Helgren
D. D. Holaday, M.D.

Jack T. Hubbard
George Husser, M.D.
Wm. T. Ingram
Homer W. Jorgensen
James R. Keefer
Hubert W. Keltner
Francis J. Lenehan
Edward Maher, M.D.
Rollyn E. Malde
E. B. Mansfield
Howard Marriott
John S. Martin
Charles Meisenbach
Reid Nunn
Richard F. Peters
Charles Pokorny, M.D.
Jack W. Pratt
Donald Roberts
Fred Rohl
Robert E. Ryan
Julius R. Scholtz, M.D.
Jack Schorr
Joseph B. Smith
Lillian Wurzel

